



# ED GONZALEZ

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## *City Council District H★NEWS*

## District H News for You!

A Guide to what's happening around your district.  
Vol. I, Issue II

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Dear Neighbor:

In the months of August and September my staff and I had the opportunity to meet many of you. We have a few more town halls left and I am hopeful that if you were not able to attend any of them you could try to stop by one of these. The information discussed at the town halls has been very helpful to me and my staff.

We are working diligently to address your issues. Your questions and concerns are welcomed. Please feel free to call or email us with upcoming events, concerns or any questions.

### Public Safety 101:

Public Safety must be taken very seriously, no matter where you live. We want you to be a part of the security process in your area. Public Safety 101 is geared to introduce you to specific initiatives in which you could be a part of, to assure that your family and neighbors are safe from harms way.

Our office is working with the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice High School to co-host the event. It will consist of a public safety panel discussion and will include workshops in subject matters ranging from hurricane preparedness, home security ideas, community emergency response team programs, anti-gang information, fire safety, and more!

A "Kids Safety Zone" will be featured, and this part will include an opportunity for children to be fingerprinted and an array of interactive law enforcement themed activities.

This endeavor is a first for District H, and we hope to see you at the event. Details are currently in the process of being finalized, and there will be more information soon to come, so stay tuned!

Remember, stay alert and stay safe always!

### Need to pay a city ticket? Try it online today!

The City of Houston offers a website which allows you to pay for tickets online. This avenue will help you save time, and allow you to pay without physically paying at the cashiers window.

Please keep in mind that only tickets that have been filed with the Courts and that have not yet been disposed may be accessed by this service. Cases which have already been dismissed, paid, cash bond posted, or in which the defendant has been incarcerated or otherwise disposed cannot be accessed. Tickets that were issued to juveniles cannot be paid online.

Check it out:

<http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us/NASApp/rap/apps/choipa/jsp/eng/>



Email us to  
add your  
name to our  
mailing list

[districth@cityofhouston.net](mailto:districth@cityofhouston.net)

### Meet the Staff:

Laura Thorp



Laura received a BFA in Fine Arts from the University of Texas, with an emphasis in graphic design. She is a business professional, mother, grandmother, and an active community volunteer.

She has been a long time member and past president of the Houston Heights Association. She and her husband were part of the first group of residents to join the association.

During those volunteer years she worked with many District H Council Members and City of Houston staff to help promote and improve the neighborhood.

Laura recently joined Council Member Gonzalez's staff as an extension of her volunteer service. She now does that in the District H office as the Community Liaison for the Greater Heights.

# Upcoming Events:

## Tuesday, September 22nd

Town Hall:  
Lindale/  
North Lindale  
Harris County Dept. of Education  
6300 Irvington  
6 - 8 p.m.

## Thursday, September 24th

New Hope Housing  
Sakowitz SRO  
Grand Opening  
2424 Sakowitz St.  
12:00 p.m.

## Friday, September 25th

Hurricane Ike  
Recovery Fair  
Independence Heights,  
NCI  
205 W. Crosstimbers St.  
12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

## Saturday, September 26th

Ground Breaking  
Lionel Castillo  
Community Center  
2101 South St.  
9 - 10:30 a.m.

## Tuesday, September 29th

Town Hall:  
Denver Harbor  
Eliot Elementary  
6411 Laredo St.  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m

## Saturday, October 3rd

Heights Hike & Bike  
Trail Ribbon Cutting  
Meet at:  
2424 Spring St.  
9- 10 a.m.

## Little White Oak Bayou Hike & Bike Trail Grand Opening.



The most recent addition to District H bike trails is the Little White Oak Trail. This trail is the 4th trail to open up this year in the city, and it parallels I-45, in the heart of District H.

The new trail links local neighborhoods to the Heights and onto on-street bike lanes along Cavalcade Street. The bike way allows you to stay healthy, by getting a good work out, and enjoying the District H urban-friendly views close to downtown.

## METRO Rail Update: Southend Rail Line

In conjunction with our colleagues, Council Member Gonzalez was able to help broker a deal to save the facade of a historic clock tower located at 4819 Harrisburg (formerly the Sterling Laundry & Cleaning building).

The facade, which was built in the art deco style in 1935, will be temporarily stored while plans are finalized to permanently move the clock tower to Eastwood Park.

## Arson in the Heights: Contact Crime Stoppers Immediately

The recent arson fires in the Heights has increased awareness among the residents and has made them more aware of their surroundings. The arson activity has jeopardized the community's safety and the person(s) responsible must be caught and dealt with accordingly.

Council Member Gonzalez co-hosted an awareness press conference with Crime Stoppers Houston, Houston Fire Department, Houston Police Department, and Constable, Precinct 1 to announce an award of up to \$5,000 for any information that may lead to an arrest.

Please call 911 in the event of any witnessed suspicious activity, and call Crime Stoppers Houston at 713.222.TIPS or text TIP610 to CRIMES (274637).

## National Night Out Coming Soon: We will see you on your block!

Houston's National Night Out is vastly approaching! Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 37 million people participated in National Night Out 2008. We are looking forward to seeing you in your neighborhood this year.

This is the prime opportunity to get to know your neighbor, and have great dialogue with your local law enforcement and civic leaders. Great food, great fellowship, means a great time!

The Goals of National Night Out are to:

- Raise awareness of crime and drug prevention efforts
- Build community support for local anti-crime programs
- Increase Partnerships with neighborhood leaders and police officials

Send a strong message to criminals, that neighborhoods are fighting back! District H must lead the way: let us know when & where you are gathering!

## City of Houston hosts workshop for: Neighborhood Matching Grants

The Neighborhood Matching Grant Program helps neighborhoods fund various improvement projects by providing a dollar-for-dollar matching grant reimbursement ranging from \$500 to \$3,000.

Please visit the website and look into the program and see how your civic association can qualify!

Please Visit:<http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/ComPlanning/nmgrp.htm>

## Helpful Contact Information:

City Help Line: 311 or 713-837-0311  
United Way Help Line: 211  
Crisis of Houston Central: 713-468-5463  
Mayor's Citizen Assistance Office: 832-393-0947  
Police (non-emergency): 713-884-3131  
Mayor's Anti-Gang Office: 832-393-0931

## District H Office Contact Info:

Phone: 832-393-3003  
Fax: 832-393-3224  
Email: [districth@cityofhouston.net](mailto:districth@cityofhouston.net)